



## OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

PO BOX 202501  
HELENA MT 59620-2501  
[www.opi.state.mt.us](http://www.opi.state.mt.us)  
(406) 444-3095  
(888) 231-9393  
(406) 444-0169 (TTY)

Linda McCulloch  
Superintendent

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### Indian Education for All Summit – A Call to Action Executive Summary

The October 2004 Indian Education Summit - A Call to Action, hosted by the Office of Public Instruction, brought together nearly 200 educators and community leaders to help the State Superintendent develop an action plan. The Summit had two goals:

1. To seek input on how to implement Indian Education for All, MCA 20-1-501
2. To eliminate the American Indian student achievement gap

Summit participants were divided into five working groups: 1) Education System Structure, 2) Indian Education for All, 3) Dropout and Retention, 4) Educational Leadership, and 5) Improving Achievement. The groups developed objectives and strategies that were presented in a powerpoint to State Superintendent McCulloch at the conclusion of the summit.

The OPI has created the Indian Education Summit webpage [www.opi.state.mt.us/IESummit](http://www.opi.state.mt.us/IESummit) to keep everyone updated on the summit outcomes. This webpage contains links to the pre-summit issue papers, participant recommendations, and the final Summit report to the Superintendent.

Below is a summary of Summit participants' recommendations on how Montana can close the achievement gap for American Indian students and ensure that all schools can successfully implement Indian Education for All. These recommendations, along with all of the summit materials, are being reviewed by the State Superintendent and the OPI staff for consideration in legislation, policy and practices.

- Reduce the dropout rate for Indian students to the level of non-Indian students
- Increase the graduation/completion rate of Indian students to 80%
- Ongoing funding for Indian Education for All 20-1-501, must be included adequately and consistently in the state budget
- Create and implement a curriculum that fulfills the requirements of Indian Education for All
- Develop and implement a comprehensive plan for professional development on Indian Education for All
- Create and Implement an accountability system for compliance with Indian Education for All
- Districts will evaluate current curricular areas by mapping the state-mandated tests used to evaluate achievement in those areas in order to: 1. identify areas of alignment/misalignment, 2) use the results of this mapping to inform and improve instruction
- Record keeping-incentive (knowledge) (Arlee model of data management and reading)
- Use of instructional time effectively and efficiently to increase academic achievement
- Increase parental awareness of early childhood reading

*For more information concerning the Indian Education for All Summit, please contact OPI Indian Education Specialist **Everall Fox** at 444-3013 or [efox@mt.gov](mailto:efox@mt.gov)*

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*"It is the mission of the Office of Public Instruction to improve teaching and learning through communication, collaboration, advocacy, and accountability to those we serve."*